

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 FBIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 111035Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6277

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, US

SUBJ: LOCKHEED CASE

REFS: (A) STATE 57271; (B) ROME 2962

1. DURING MARCH 10 MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL MFA, AMBASSADOR CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 57271. THE SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED HE WOULD BE BACK TO THE AMBASSADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, "SOSTITUITO PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA" ILARIO MARTELLA (REFERRED TO IN REF B) IS PRESENTLY IN FRANCE ATTEMPTING TO INTERVIEW ROGER BIXBY SMITH WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. AS REPORTED IN MORNING PRESS OF MARCH 11, MARTELLA IS ENJOYING COOPERATION OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES BUT HAS RUN INTO BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES EXPECTED SOON TO BE OVERCOME.

3. THE ITALIAN REQUEST TO THE GOF WAS TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY ON MONDAY MARCH 8. THAT SAME DAY THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS WAS NOTIFIED BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS INCOMPLETE. MORE INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED: A MORE DETAILED CHRONOLOGY OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR AND AN EXACT FORMULATION

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OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO MR. SMITH. MARTELLA ARRIVED

IN PARIS ON WEDNESDAY, REPORTEDLY CARRYING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION. PRESUMABLY, ONCE FRENCH REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, THE PARIS TRIBUNAL WILL NAME A JUDGE WHO WOULD IN TURN CONVOKE MR. SMITH. MARTELLA WILL BE PRESENT AND PERMITTED TO ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS OF SMITH.

4. SECRETARY GENERAL SAID HIS INTERPRETATION OF OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT AS SOON AS GUIDELINES AGREEMENT SIGNED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR PROCURATORE MARTELLA (ASSUMING HE HAD FINISHED UP IN PARIS) TO GO ON TO THE U.S. IT SEEMS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT MARTELLA IS THE PERSON WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TRAVEL T THE U.S. TO CONDUCT THE INTERROGATION PURSUANT TO THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION. SHOULD THERE BE A CHANGE, WE WILL OF COURSE NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.VOLPE

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